

Message Text

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UNCLAS GENEVA 6351

PLEASE PASS N.E. JOHNSON, NOAA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: WMO UNEP TSPA

SUBJECT: LANDSAT DATA FOR WMO/UNEP/SAHEL STUDY

1. UNEP-FINANCED STUDY ON AGRO AND HYDROMETEOROLOGICAL FACTORS IN SAHEL REGION WISHES TO USE LANDSAT DATA TO DETERMINE ANNUAL VARIATION S

OF FLOODED AREAS OF MAJOR RIVERS AND LAKES AFFECTING SAHEL WATER RESOURCES AND FOOD PRODUCTION. PROFESSOR SHULLY SOLOMON, WMO CONSULTANT THIS PROJECT, DESIRES LANDSAT TAPES TO COVER FOLLOWING TWO AREAS: 1) SIGNIFICANT PORTION OF MIDDLE REACHES OF NIGER RIVER, 2) SIGNIFICANT PORTION OF LAKE CHAD. IF PRACTICABLE, WOULD LIKE TO HAVE TAPES FOR EACH OF FOUR LANDSAT RADIATION CHANNELS BUT IF THIS NOT POSSIBLE, WOULD PARTICULARLY NEED TAPES FOR CHANNEL 7.

2. TAPES WILL BE PROCESSED AT PROFESSOR SOLOMON'S DEPARTMENT AT WATERLOO UNIVERSITY, WATERLOO, ONT., WHERE COMPUTER PROGRAMS ARE ALREADY AVAILABLE FOR RUNNING LANDSAT TAPES. SOLOMON HAS CONSIDERABLE EXPERIENCE IN USE OF LANDSAT DATA IN LAND-USE STUDIES IN ONTARIO AND BELIEVES THAT HIS PROGRAM WILL PROVIDE UNIQUE INFORMATION ON EXTENT OF RIVER CHANGES DURING VARIOUS WATER LEVELS AT DIFFERENT SEASONS OF YEAR. THESE DATA WILL THEN BE CORRELATED WITH RIVER STAGE RECORDS TO PRODUCE STAGE-AREA RELATIONSHIPS. ONCE THIS DEMONSTRATION PROJECT HAS BEEN COMPLETED, IT IS EXPECTED THAT STUDIES WILL BE EXTENDED TO COVER OTHER PORTIONS OF NIGER AND SIMILAR BASINS AFFECTING SAHEL REGION.

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3. WMO UNDERSTANDS THAT NASA HAS PREVIOUSLY OFFERED TO MAKE LANDSAT DATA AVAILABLE FOR SAHEL STUDIES AND HOPES THAT DESIRED TAPES FOR SOLOMON'S STUDY CAN BE PROVIDED WITHOUT CHARGE. AS SOLOMON WILL COMPLETE INITIAL PHASE OF HIS STUDY IN GENEVA BEFORE END OF AUGUST, WMO HOPES THAT ARRANGEMENTS FOR PROVISION OF TAPES CAN BE COMPLETED BEFORE SOLOMON LEAVES GENEVA. TAPES COULD THEN BE PROVIDED DIRECTLY TO HIM AT WATERLOO UNIVERSITY WHERE COMPUTER ANALYSIS WOULD BE CARRIED OUT.

4. IF TAPES FOR ALL 4 LANDSAT CHANNELS CAN BE MADE AVAILABLE TO SOLOMON, HE WOULD ATTEMPT TO EXTEND STUDY TO INCLUDE CROP AND VEGETATION IDENTIFICATION ALONG LINES ALREADY CARRIED OUT AS PART OF HIS ONTARIO LAND-USE STUDIES. WHILE THIS IS NOT AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE WMO/UNEP PROJECT, IT COULD HAVE SIGNIFICANT SIDE BENEFITS FOR OTHER ASPECTS OF SAHEL INVESTIGATIONS.

5. AS SECOND PART OF SOLOMON GENEVA ASSIGNMENT LATER IN YEAR WILL BE DEPENDENT ON APPLICATION OF LANDSAT DATA, IT IS URGENT THAT ARRANGEMENTS BE COMPLETED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.DALE

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